



**Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report  
March 12, 2008**

On February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> an AWIB meeting was held in Juneau with presentations on registered apprenticeship, the Work Ready College Ready Initiative, and seafood, transportation, and timber industry panels. The draft AGIA Strategic Training Plan was distributed to the AWIB, the AWIB Annual Report to the Legislature was approved by the board, and Cheryl Edenshaw was presented with the 2007 Vocational Administrator of the Year Award in recognition of her work with the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue. Two resolutions were passed by the AWIB in support of the State Training and Employment Program (STEP), and innovative solutions to provide access for residents in rural communities to obtain an Alaska identification card and driver's license for the purpose of obtaining and maintaining employment. A tour of the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) School of Career Education was given by university staff for AWIB members in Juneau and a reception for the AWIB was held at the Governor's House which was well-attended. The AWIB appreciates the Governor's support of the board.

An Ad Hoc committee was appointed at the February meeting to begin work on an agenda for a board retreat scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> in Seward. The next full AWIB meeting is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Alaska Vocational Training Center in Seward. The agenda for the AWIB meeting is currently being reviewed by the Executive Committee and will be forwarded to the AWIB once approved.

Staff will be preparing board packets and expect to have all materials for the meeting posted on the AWIB website by May 5<sup>th</sup>. Hard copies of the binders will be available at the meeting in Seward.

Barbara Duval began as our new Project Coordinator on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and I am pleased to have her on-board. Barbara will be lead staff for the Workforce Readiness/Employment & Placement Committee and Youth Council.

**Committees**

- A Board Retreat Ad Hoc Committee has tentatively been scheduled for March 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

- The next Policy and Planning/Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Workforce Readiness/Employment and Placement Committee is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### **Travel**

- I attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in Washington, D.C. from February 24<sup>th</sup> thru 26<sup>th</sup> which included Newt Gingrich as the keynote speaker and several workshops relating to WIBs and workforce development throughout the U.S. Many of the topics of discussion centered around Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding which has been cut over the last several years and how states are developing innovative partnerships with private industry to stimulate the creation of new jobs and address their workforce development needs. Consensus was that WIA will not be reauthorized until after the presidential election. The next NAWB Conference is scheduled for March 7 – 10, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

### **Status of Current Projects**

- Staff held a meeting with the Training Plan Template Ad Hoc Committee on January 11<sup>th</sup>, and had planned to have a draft template for review at the February AWIB meeting. However, the template was not available and is currently being worked on by the committee for the May AWIB meeting.
- Once the template is completed, industry panels will need to be created to work on workforce development plans for priority industries including the health care, transportation, and construction industry.
- Staff will be working with the Board Retreat Ad Hoc Committee on an agenda for the retreat scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **AGIA Strategic Planning Document**

An electronic copy of the most recent draft of the AGIA Training Strategic Plan is available at [http://www.labor.state.ak.us/AGIA\\_teams/docs-combined/agiaweb.pdf](http://www.labor.state.ak.us/AGIA_teams/docs-combined/agiaweb.pdf)

### **DOL AGIA Website**

AGIA Resource Documents are located at [labor.state.ak.us/agia%5Fteams/](http://labor.state.ak.us/agia%5Fteams/).